

REMARKS

Claims 1- 2, 6-15, 19-28, and 32-46 were pending. Claims 1, 14, 27, and 40-46 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1- 2, 6-15, 19-28, and 32-46 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-2, 6-15, 19-28, and 32-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 1, 14, 27, and 40-46 to clarify the nature of the invention. Amendments to claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 were to correct an insufficient antecedent basis.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-15, 19-20, 22-25, 27-28, 32-33, and 35-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by newly cited reference Murphy et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,127, hereinafter “Murphy”). Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following discussion.

In paragraph 5 of the present Office Action, it is suggested that Murphy discloses all of the features of claim 1. For example, it is suggested that Murphy discloses “linking said actors in a first hierarchical tree (column 7, lines 15-42).” However, Applicant submits the reference and the presently claimed invention are quite distinct and Applicant submits at least these features are not disclosed by the cited art. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Murphy discloses:

“A lookup service provides a central registry of services available within a Djinn. This lookup service is the primary mechanism for programs to find services within the Djinn and is the foundation for providing user interfaces through which users and administrators can discover and interact with services of the Djinn.

The lookup service maintains a flat collection of service items. The collection is flat in that **the service items do not form a hierarchy**. Each service item represents an instance of a service available within the Djinn. The service item contains a stub (if the service is implemented as a remote object) or a serialized object (if the service is a local object stored in the lookup service) that programs use to access the service,

and an extensible collection of attributes that describe the service or provide secondary interfaces to the service. A "stub" is code and data that facilitates access to a remote function, and a "serialized object" is an object placed in a serialized form.

Although the collection of service items is flat, **a wide variety of hierarchical views can be imposed on the collection by aggregating items according to service types and attributes.** The lookup service provides a set of methods to enable users and administrators to browse the collection and build a variety of user interfaces. Once an appropriate service is found, the user can interact with the service by loading a user interface applet, attached as another attribute on the item." (Murphy, col. 7, lines 16-42, emphasis added).

As may be seen from the above disclosure, Murphy's collection of service items do not form a hierarchy. Thus, despite the further disclosure that a wide variety of hierarchical views can be imposed on the collection by aggregating items according to service types and attributes, the service items themselves are not linked in a hierarchy. Accordingly, Applicant submits Murphy does not disclose "linking said one or more actors on the server in a first hierarchical tree" as is recited in claim 1. For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Further, because claims 14, 27, and 40 include similar features to that of claim 1, claims 14, 27, and 40 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

In addition to the above, it is suggested that Murphy discloses "providing a communication link between each peer actor of the replicated second hierarchical tree and corresponding actor of the second hierarchical tree on the server (column 7, lines 39-42)." However, Applicant submits these features are not disclosed by the cited art. In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Murphy merely discloses

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administrators to browse the collection and build a variety of user interfaces. Once an appropriate service is found, **the user can interact with the service by loading a user interface applet**, attached as another attribute on the item." (Murphy, col. 7, lines 16-42, emphasis added).

As may be seen from the above disclosure, Murphy discloses that users and administrators can discover and interact with services through user interfaces. However, Murphy does not disclose "providing a communication link between each of said one or more peer actors of the replicated second hierarchical tree on the client and a corresponding actor of the second hierarchical tree on the server" as is recited in claim 1. For at least these additional reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Further, because claims 14, and 27 include similar features to that of claim 1, claims 14, and 27 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons. Likewise, as each of dependent claims 2, 6-13, 15, 19-26, 28, 32-39, and 41-46 includes at least the features of the above independent claims upon which it depends, each of dependent claims 2, 6-13, 15, 19-26, 28, 32-39, and 41-46 is believed patentable as well.

Still further, the dependent claims recite features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. For example, claim 6 recites the additional features "wherein each said actor comprises a tree of hierarchically linked nodes, said nodes comprising one or more objects" and claim 7 recites the additional features "wherein said nodes further comprise one or more nested actors." Also, claim 41 recites the additional features "wherein a first portion of a function to be performed by the distributed application is executed by the member actors and a second portion of the function to be performed by the distributed application is executed by the source actors." In addition, claim 42 recites the additional features "wherein the function to be performed by the distributed application comprises rendering a scene." Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited portions in the Office Action, as well as the remainder of the reference. These features are not found in the cited art.

In addition to the above, claims 8, 21, 26, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,127) in view of Follendore III (U.S. Patent No. 5,369,707, "Follendore"). In view of the above discussion, Applicant submits each of the pending claims recite features which are neither taught nor suggested by Murphy or

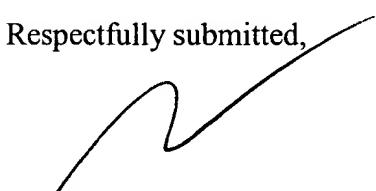
Follendore, either singly or in combination. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness is not established.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.. Should the examiner believe there are issues remaining which would prevent allowance of the present application, the below signed representative requests the examiner telephone the representative at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a speedy resolution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\6000-05100\RDR

Respectfully submitted,


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